

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the last paragraph of specification spanning pages 9-10 with the following replacement paragraph:

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As noted, a vdisk is a special file type in a volume that derives from a plain (regular) file, but that has associated export controls and operation restrictions that support emulation of a disk. Unlike a file that can be created by a client using, e.g., the NFS or CIFS protocol, a vdisk is created on the multi-protocol storage as a special typed file (object). Illustratively, the vdisk is a multi-inode object comprising a special file inode that holds data and at least one associated stream inode that holds attributes, including security information. The special file inode functions as a main container for storing data, such as application data, associated with the emulated disk. The stream inode stores attributes that allow luns and exports to persist over, e.g., reboot operations, while also enabling management of the vdisk as a single disk object in relation to SAN clients. An example of a vdisk and its associated inodes is described in U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 7,107,385, 10/216,453~~ entitled STORAGE VIRTUALIZATION BY LAYER-ING VDISKS ON A FILE SYSTEM, by Vijayan Rajan, et al., issued September 12, 2006, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

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